

REMARKS

In view of both the amendments presented above and the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application is or obvious under the provisions of 35 USC § 103. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse action in any of the claims now pending in the application, the Examiner should telephone Mr. Peter L. Michaelson, Esq. at (732) 530-6671 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Status of claims

The Applicants have now combined independent claims 106, 107 and 108 with dependent claims 8, 42 and 76, respectively. Dependent claims 8, 23, 42, 57, 76, and 91 have all been canceled.

Rejection under 35 USC § 103

In the immediately preceding final action, the Examiner has maintained his prior rejection of claims 3-10, 12-18, 20-25, 27-33, 35, 37-44, 46-52, 54-59, 61-67, 69, 71-78, 80-86, 88-93, 95-102 and 104-108 under the provisions of 35 USC § 103 in view of the teachings of the Judson patent (US patent 5,737,619 issued to David H. Judson on April 7, 1998) taken in view of the teachings in the Capek et al patent (US patent 6,094,677 issued to Peter G. Capek

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et al on July 25, 2000) and the Merriman et al patent (US patent 5,948,061 issued to D. A. Merriman et al on September 7, 1999).

Given that the Examiner's rejection is apparently directed at the independent claims 106, 107 and 108 as they were then pending, the Applicants submit that this rejection is moot in view of the amendments now made to these claims. Hence, no further comments are deemed necessary with respect to the claims now pending in the application.

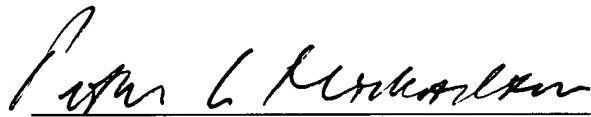
Conclusion

Thus, the Applicants submit that none of the claims, presently in the application, is obvious under the provisions of 35 USC § 103.

Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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